

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE MEMORY OF SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
3 BEN D. ALTAMIRANO.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the passing of Senator Ben D. Altamirano marks  
6 the loss of a great and devoted public servant; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Altamirano was born on October 17, 1930  
8 in Silver City; and

9 WHEREAS, he was married to his loving wife, Nina  
10 Melendrez, and was father to Yolanda, Ben Jr., and Paul; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Altamirano enlisted with the United  
12 States Army in 1946 and served with the European Occupation  
13 Forces during World War II; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Altamirano dutifully represented  
15 District 28 in the New Mexico Senate from 1971 until his  
16 passing in late 2007 and served as president pro tempore  
17 from 2005; and

18 WHEREAS, he served on numerous legislative committees  
19 and served as chair of the Senate Finance Committee for  
20 seventeen years before being elected president pro tempore,  
21 whereupon he became co-chair of the New Mexico Legislative  
22 Council; and

23 WHEREAS, during Senator Altamirano's tenure, one hundred  
24 eighty-eight members have passed through the senate chambers;  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Altamirano played an influential role  
2 in the passage of key pieces of legislation, including the  
3 ban on cockfighting bill and the minimum wage bill; and

4           WHEREAS, in describing Senator Altamirano's style,  
5 Governor Bill Richardson said, "Benny was a true statesman  
6 whose soft-spoken demeanor and love for New Mexico helped  
7 earn him the respect of everyone who crossed his path.", a  
8 sentiment echoed by all who knew him; and

9           WHEREAS, Senator Altamirano was known for his big smile  
10 and quick hug; and

11           WHEREAS, Senator Altamirano was also known for his  
12 bipartisanship, having been described by Senator Mary Jane M.  
13 Garcia as "a kind of peacemaker working with both sides of  
14 the aisle";

15           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the memory of Senator Ben D.  
17 Altamirano be honored for his many years of devoted service  
18 to the people of New Mexico; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the family of Senator Altamirano. \_\_\_\_\_